

A PROCLAMATION THANKING MICHAEL SIMPSON FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Michael Simpson has served the United States in Operation Iraqi Freedom as a member of the United States Army; and

Whereas, Michael Simpson is to be commended for the honor and bravery that he displayed while serving our Nation in this time of war; and

Whereas, Michael Simpson has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence, and outstanding service;

Therefore, I join with the family, friends and the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in thanking Michael Simpson of the United States Army for his service to our country. Your service has made us proud.

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, or the ADA. This landmark piece of legislation was the world's first comprehensive declaration of equality for people with disabilities, making it the most significant piece of civil rights legislation since the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

There is no doubt that the ADA has improved the lives of the 54 million Americans with disabilities, including 450,000 disabled adults in Wisconsin, and the evidence of this progress can be seen all around us. Thanks to the ADA, we have curb cuts, wheelchair lifts, Braille signs, accessible transit systems, and perhaps most important, the ADA has begun to change peoples' attitudes towards people with disabilities.

But as part of the recognition of the progress that has been made, it is important for us to remember why the ADA was needed in the first place. Prior to the ADA's passage, the isolation of and discrimination against people with disabilities was staggering. Many disabled Americans were not working, even though they wanted to have a job. Many did not finish high school, and many lived in poverty. The ADA established a comprehensive prohibition of discrimination on the basis of disability in the areas of employment, public accommodations, public services, transportation, and telecommunications.

So while I celebrate the ADA for the progress it has brought about, the fact remains that the promise of the ADA remains unfulfilled for far too many people. According to a 2004 survey done by the National Organization on Disability, only 35 percent of people with disabilities reported being employed full or part time; people with disabilities are three times more likely to live in poverty with household incomes below \$15,000 than their non-

disabled counterparts; and people with disabilities remain twice as likely to drop out of high school. And I fear that ongoing efforts to cut the Medicaid program and dismantle Social Security will threaten the wellbeing of many more people with disabilities.

I remain committed to the goals and promise of the ADA—equality and opportunity for all Americans, and I am delighted to reaffirm this commitment as we celebrate the ADA's 15th anniversary.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF DOCTOR PORFIRIO LOZANO

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Portirio Lozano, a dedicated member of the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, community in El Paso, Texas.

Dr. Lozano has devoted many years of service to El Paso in many capacities. A distinguished pioneer of El Paso's medical community, Dr. Lozano was responsible for laying the groundwork of today's osteopathic medicine practitioners in West Texas, paving the way for the integration of Medical Doctors and Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine in El Paso's hospitals. His work performing compensation and pension examinations for El Paso's VA ensured that the dispensation of entitlements for our veterans occurred quickly and fairly.

Dr. Lozano's more than 20 years of service is especially important to me because my Congressional District in El Paso is home to nearly 60,000 veterans. These brave men and women have made tremendous sacrifices for our country, and Dr. Lozano has been steadfast in providing the best possible health care for our Nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the 16th Congressional District and the veterans across America, I would like to thank Dr. Lozano for his selfless service to and advocacy for veterans in El Paso and the Nation.

THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise as we celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Most Americans take for granted the ability to enter a restaurant, speak on the telephone, or apply for a job without fear of discrimination. But until the passage of the ADA, tens of millions of Americans with disabilities were denied these basic rights. Over the past decade and a half, the ADA has enabled people with disabilities to realize more fully their place in American society.

But the promise of the ADA remains unfulfilled. Only about one-third of people with disabilities are employed, and those with disabilities are three times more likely to live in poverty.

If we are to honor our commitment to equal rights, we must work tirelessly to open society and the workplace to all Americans. To that end, I sponsored legislation to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act and recently introduced the Federal Employees with Disabilities Protection Act.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of what the ADA has accomplished so far. I encourage my colleagues to join me in working to honor its promise for all Americans.

OPERATION RED WINGS—AFGHANISTAN

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, on June 28, 2005, a U.S. Military MH-47D Chinook helicopter was hit by enemy fire and crashed near Asadabad, Afghanistan, killing 16 special operations forces operators on board. These special operations forces were attempting to rescue a 4-man SEAL special reconnaissance element which had come under heavy enemy fire. Three members of this SEAL team were killed by enemy fire as they tried to evade a vastly superior enemy force.

The special operations forces were engaged in Operation Red Wings, an effort to defeat terrorists operating in Kunar province. The operation was part of a larger campaign by U.S. and Afghan forces to kill and capture fighters from hideouts in eastern Afghanistan.

On behalf the United States Congress and its people—I extend my sincerest condolences to the families of these brave Navy SEALs and Army Special Operations Aviators. They need to know that the prayers of a nation are with them at this most difficult time.

These men bravely and unselfishly answered the nation's call to defend freedom and protect America and its allies from terrorism. We want the families to know the deaths of their loved ones, their sons, brothers, husbands and fathers, will only strengthen our resolve for ultimate victory in the Global War on Terror.

I would now like to pay tribute to those that paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

Assigned to the Army's 3rd Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), Hunter Army Air Field, GA:

Staff Sgt. Shamus O. Goare, 29, of Danville, OH.

Chief Warrant Officer Corey J. Goodnature, 35, of Clarks Grove, MN.

Sgt. Kip A. Jacoby, 21, of Pompano Beach, FL.

Sgt. 1st Class Marcus V. Muralles, 33, of Shelbyville, IN.

Maj. Stephen C. Reich, 34, of Washington Depot, CN.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael L. Russell, 31, of Stafford, VA.

Chief Warrant Officer Chris J. Scherkenbach, 40, of Jacksonville, FL.

Assigned the Army's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), Fort Campbell, KY:

Master Sgt. James W. Ponder III, 36, of Franklin, TN.

Assigned to SEAL Team Ten, Virginia Beach, VA:

Chief Petty Officer Jacques J. Fontan, 36, of New Orleans, LA.